



LITH

# KNIGHT



VOLUME 14, N. 2, ISSUE #77. The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, EDITOR. November-December 1991

## Some Notes on the Post-Revolutionary Lithuanian Economy

### MY COMMENTS

By Frank Passic

The new Lithuanian "talonas" notes discussed in the article on the right are obviously TEMPORARY notes hurriedly printed by a local printing firm and intended to be used as a supplement to the Soviet ruble currency, until the Lithuanian Litas could be reestablished.

As Lithuanian numismatists, we are seeing history repeated before our very eyes. We should recall that in August 1922 the LITAS was established, and officials had only 1 month to prepare, design, and print banknotes for the October 1 deadline. TEMPORARY Lithuanian banknotes dated September, 1922 were printed in Berlin, and only later that year did the permanent notes appear.

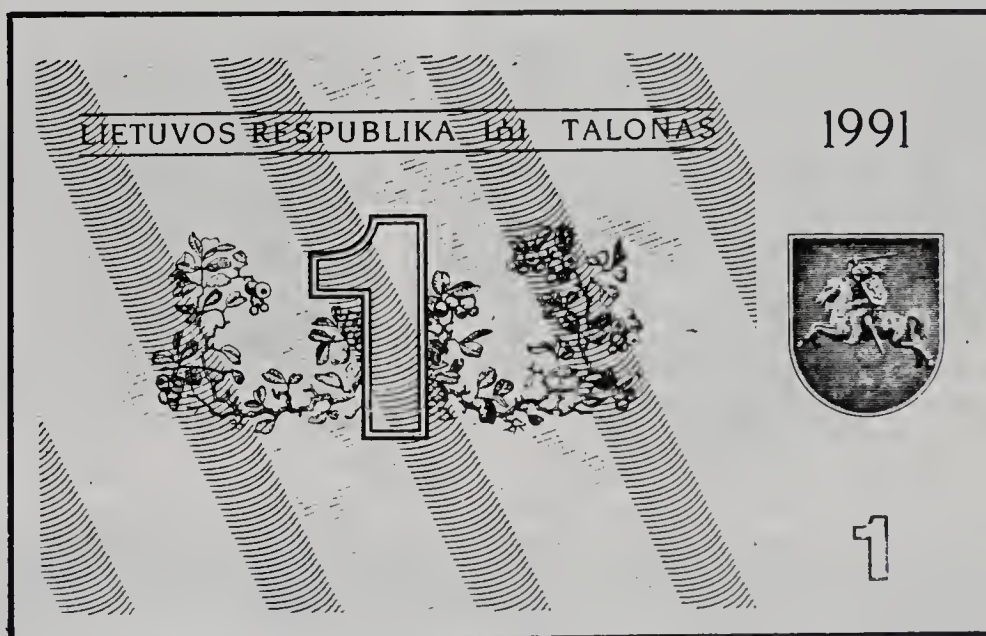
Apparently the Lithuanian government has chosen to use the ruble standard for these notes, much like in 1918 they adopted the German Ost-mark and used that until establishing the LITAS in 1922.

No doubt Lithuanian banknotes are being designed and printed at this very moment, anticipating the February deadline. We suspect that the issue date will be February 16, as that is Lithuania's independence day.

One should not fault the Lithuanian government for using illustrations of lizards and birds on these notes, most likely this is what was available at the printers, and officials did not want to "use up" their beautiful

By MARK A. BEVENUTO

An informal "lunchtime seminar" was held on Thursday, October 17, 1991 by the Slavic Languages Department of the Pennsylvania State University, titled "Lithuania After the Revolution." The speaker was Professor William Schmalstieg of the Penn State faculty, who had recently attended two conferences on Baltic languages, one in Warsaw, the other in Vilnius, that in Vilnius being the Fourth International Congress of the Baltists. Professor Schmalstieg had visited Vilnius several times in previous years, most notably for a semester as a Fulbright Scholar. His summary of his trip, as well as his anecdotal comments, was quite informative.



Above: Lithuanian "1 Talonas ["check"] " note (1991) being used in Lithuania prior to the reestablishment of the LITAS currency, scheduled for February, 1992.

The economic situation in Vilnius is apparently still in a state of flux. An important note is that new Lithuanian currency does exist and is in the hands of citizens! Professor Schmalstieg had a "1 talonas" note and a "3 talonas" note that were given to him by a fellow academic at the conference, and graciously allowed this author to photocopy them for presentation here. While it is no surprise that Vytis (the knight) appears on both bills, a few eyebrow raisers are present: specifically, neither bill has any watermark, silverline, or signature. The engraving on the "3 talonas" note is a pastel green, and that on the one litas note is a yellow-tan. This author is not familiar enough with Lithuanian fauna to tell if the animals depicted on the notes are native only to Lithuania or not.

The notes depicted are actual size, approximately 75 x 120 mm. The professor did not know how well such currency was circulating, and saw only these two particular bills. They were quite crisp, however, showing only folds from being in his wallet. He said that U.S. dollars and Soviet rubles and the predominant currencies of at least the city. Further, he knew of no exchange rate for the "talonas" notes

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## 2. Lithuanian Economy

(Continued from page 1...)

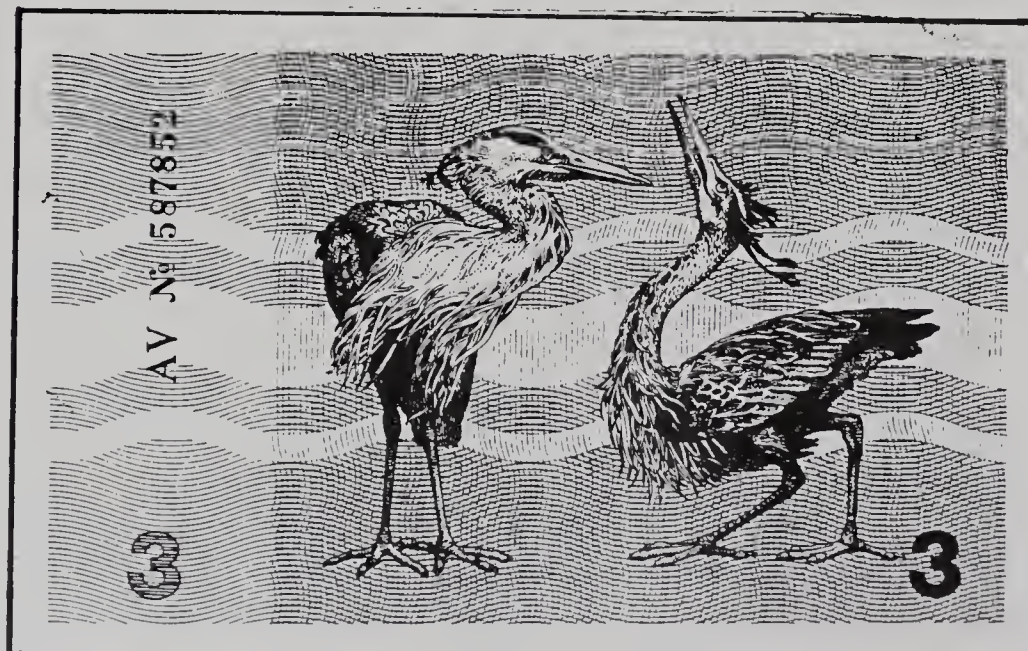
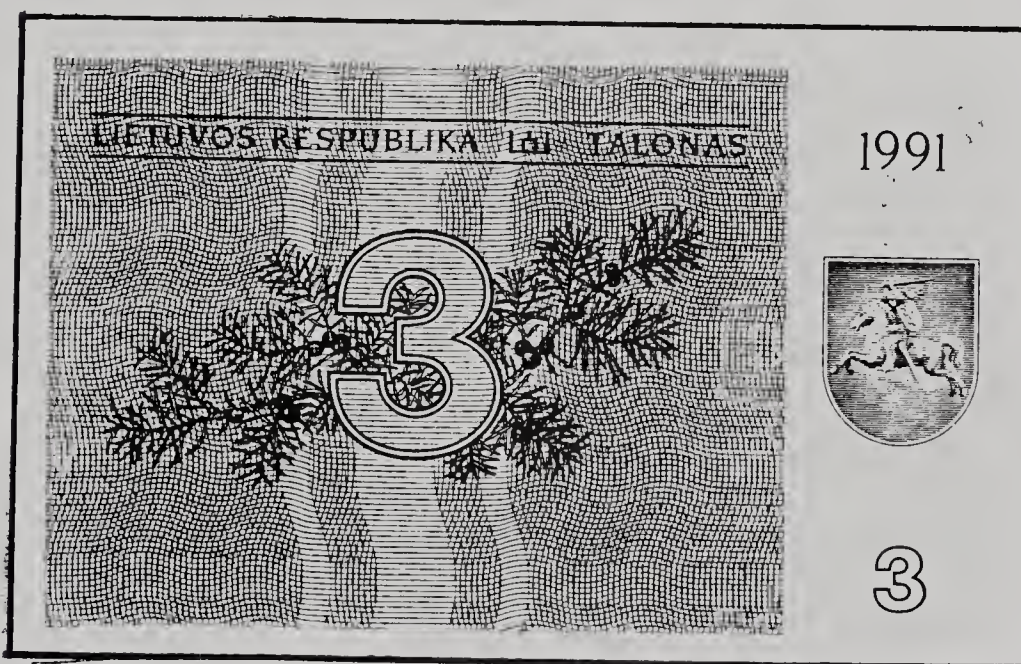
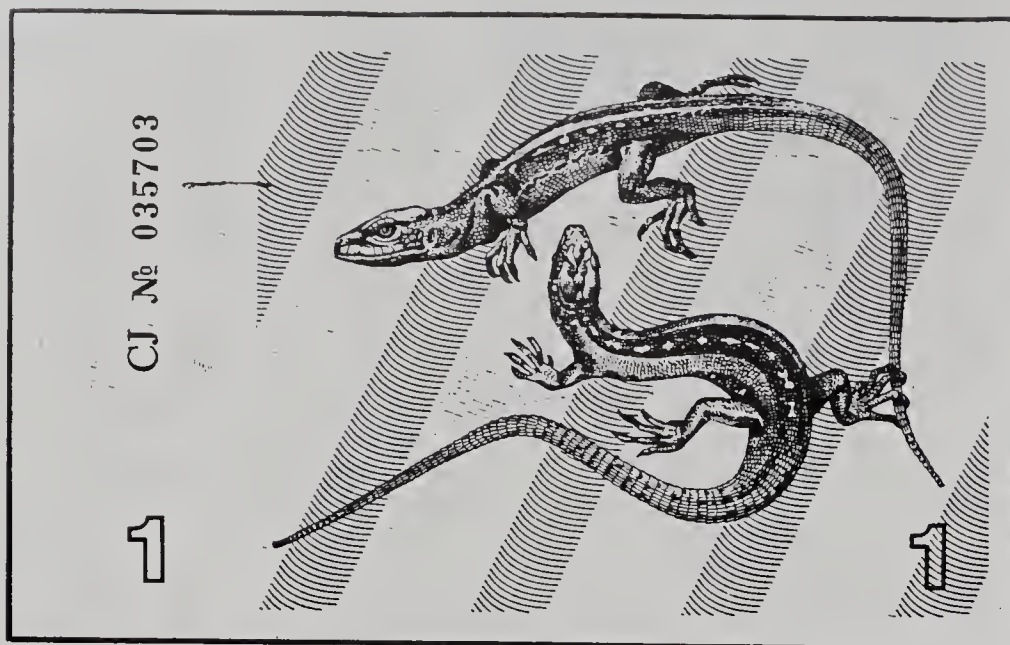
(perhaps they are simply too new and not widely enough circulated). One exchange rate that is very prominent however, is the ruble-to-dollar rate, which at the time of his visit was 40 rubles to the U.S. Dollar. Dollars themselves were welcome in a variety of transactions.

The professor commented that in official shops a coupon system was still required and in use. He found out though that a whopping \$2 bribe (in U.S. currency) was enough to replace a hat he had lost. He also said that it was hard to keep a straight face when the store clerk asked him why he was willing to pay so high a bribe for a new hat! Evidently, both the store clerk and her supervisor were able to keep the princely sum of \$1 apiece that the wealthy American was so foolishly willing to part with. The professor also commented that Lithuania was scheduled to drop the Soviet ruble in February of 1992.

Currency exchange vouchers are still required at the border, Prof. Schmalstieg said. Additionally, Soviet visas are still being used at the border. He commented that a colleague had the foresight to request (and did receive) a Lithuanian visa through the Washington, D.C. legation, but was delayed at the border because he lacked the Soviet visa. Both however did finally gain admittance and were able to attend the conference.

The professor also sent a letter or two back to the U.S. from Vilnius, using Lithuanian stamps. Those he showed were all of similar design, showing Vytis charging left and a denomination, and were of varying colors depending upon the denomination. It cost 80 kopecks to send a letter from Lithuania to the U.S. Yes, the system was still using kopecks. Interestingly, the stamps were not perforated. He stated that the woman selling them to him simply cut the required number from an unbroken sheet. Dr. Schmalstieg then found to his dismay that such stamps had no glue on the reverse! This is normal evidently, and a friend let him use a bit of glue to attach the stamps. That the letter arrived and was displayed in the seminar seems ample proof that they are accepted.

Amber continues to be exported, both by legal and not-so-legal means, according to Professor Schmalstieg. He didn't comment on whether it was an underground medium of exchange; but he did say that the border and airport controls were checking for amber. (Continued page 4...)



ABOVE: 1-Litonas reverse, and 3-Litonas note featuring generic wildlife illustrations.



# 1938 2-LITAI COIN PATTERNS

LNA-15, 16.

2 Litai (patterns), 1938

Diameter: 23 mm.

Mint: Brussels Mint, Belgium

Designer: Juozas Zikaras

## TYPES:

LNA-15a (Vytis Reverse)

Brass

Edge lettered: LIETUVA LIETUVA  
LIETUVA

LNA-15 b, c, d. (Vytis reverse)

.800 silver, .200 copper.

Weight: 5.45 gr.

B) Reeded edge.

C) lettered edge as 15a above.

D) Plain edge.

LNA-16 a, b. (Columns reverse)

.800 silver, .200 copper a) plain

Weight: 5.45 gr. edge

b) lettered edge

In 1938, plans were made to strike a new 2 litai coin, and following the custom, dies were prepared in Belgium. The obverse of the proposed coin featured Lithuanian President Smetona (1874-1942), and the traditional Vytis reverse. Brass patterns were struck using this design.

Since 1938 was also a jubilee year (20th anniversary of independence), the mint also prepared a special reverse displaying the Columns of Gediminas, and struck patterns using this die. These were examined by Lithuanian officials for their final decision.

Due to the rapidly deteriorating political situation Europe, the 2 Litai coin was not minted, and those patterns which were struck known in collections today came from the Belgium mint, not from Lithuania for the most part.

**OBVERSE:** The legend reads, "VALS-TYBES PREZIDENTAS A. SMETONA" meaning "State President Antanas Smetona," with the denomination, "2 LITAI 2" below the bust.

Incidentally, we read somewhere that Smetona's wishes were to be eventually buried in his native Lithuania when Lithuania became free again. As you know, he died in Cleveland, Ohio in 1942, and his remains were transferred in 1975 to All Soul's Cemetery near Cleveland, from a mausoleum at Knollwood cemetery. Will the new Republic of Lithuania allow Smetona's remains to be buried in his homeland now that Lithuania is free? Has anyone read anything about this subject?



**REVERSE:** Patterns NOs. 15 a-d bear the Vytis reverse and the 1938 date, while patterns 16-a,b bear the Columns of Gediminas reverse, and a large 1938 date. Refer to the chart in column 1 for an explanation of the different types.





1991

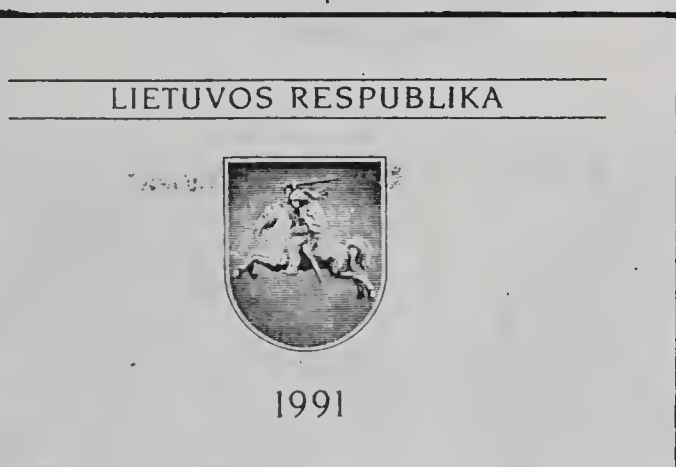
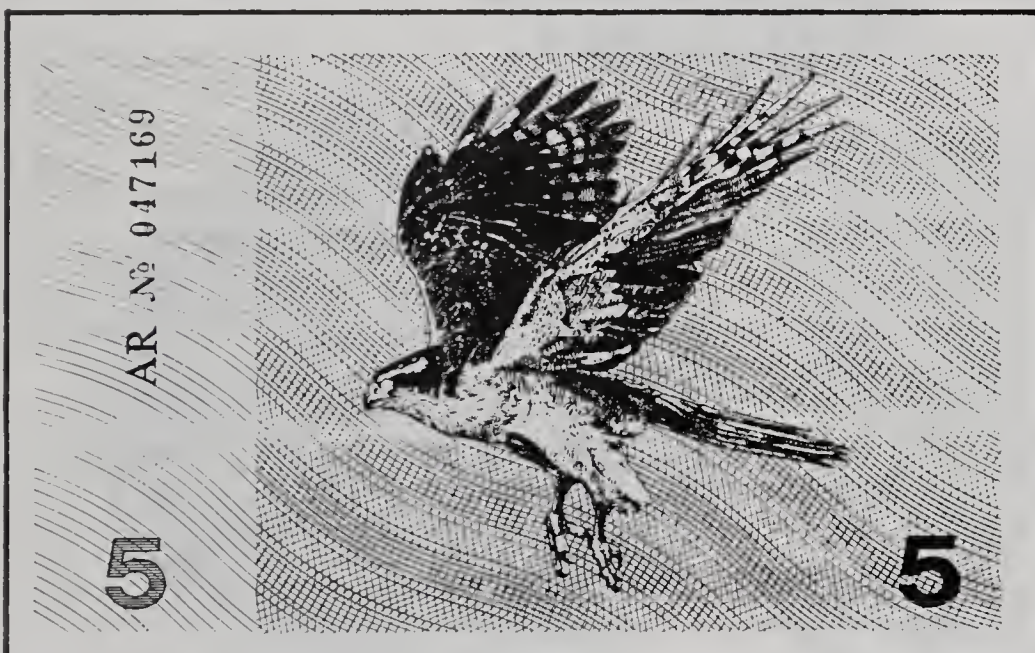


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Economic conditions were certainly not the only subject of the professor's talk. He stated that many of the streets in Vilnius are being renamed. Perhaps the most grim is the street which once housed the KGB headquarters. It is now known as "The Street of the Victims." While Prof. Schmalstieg visited, the Parliament building was still barricaded. He noted that many of the protest signs and slogans were in English, as well as Lithuanian and Russian.

Additionally, he commented that the national militia has been redesignated as a national police force. He also said that the privatization of farms was cause for concern with many of the citizens. Evidently, not many people are for it. The professor speculated a bit sadly that perhaps the decades of harsh communist rule had bred out the desire to work hard for oneself. The gravest concern among the people however was a possible shortage of fuel for heating for the coming winter. Although the farms were a problem, there seemed to be no immediate belief in a coming famine or food shortage, rather a fuel shortage was feared.

This author speculates that the restoration of some of Lithuania's pre-World War II gold reserves might put two previously-mentioned matters in a new light. A news article or two has appeared about gold reserves restoration, but evidently we, and most importantly the Lithuanian people, will have to wait and see.

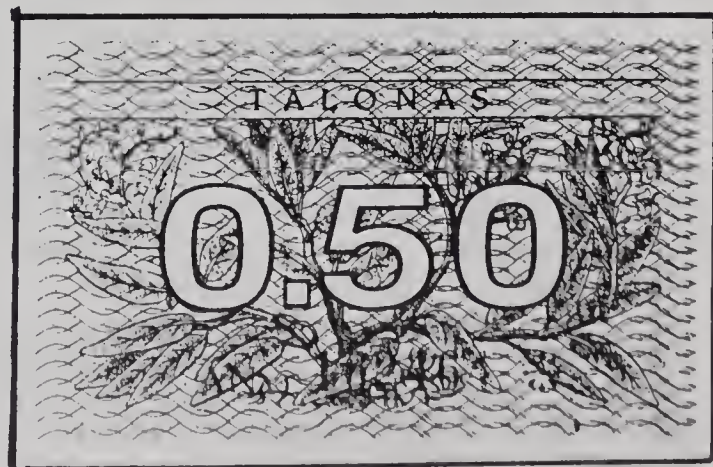
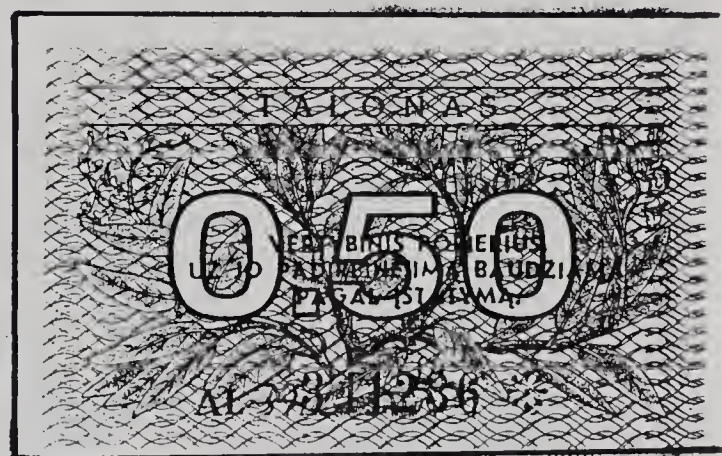


1991

ABOVE: 5-talona note. Left: .10 (10 kopeck) note obverse & reverse.

RIGHT: .50 talona (50 kopeck) note, two types: with (top) and without (bottom) counterfeiting clause.

Notes illustrated on this page courtesy World Coin News.





(Continued from page 1....)

Lithuanian artist designs on worthless Soviet rubles. Yet at the same time, officials probably wanted to still exert Lithuania's independence and have SOMETHING in the way of currency, as they had previously done with the stamps.

Speaking of stamps, The previously printed perforated and gummed 1990 stamps (printed in Germany) which the Soviets had turned back at the border at the time, have now been brought into Lithuania and are being used there. (See illustration at left).



NOTE: LNA member Ray Hafsaas, P.O. Box 66882, Seattle, WA 98166 has a price list of NEW Baltic philatelic items. Write him.

The information presented here on these notes is only preliminary; we will keep you informed with updated information in future issues of *The Knight* as we receive it. Special thanks to Colin Bruce of the *Bank Note Reporter* who sent us Xerox copies of the Talonas notes which were anonymously sent to Krause Publications from Lithuania, and to Mark Bevenuto for supplying the article.

Special thanks to you our readers for supplying this editor with new information. This is an exciting time for our numismatic specialty! If you know of anyone traveling to Lithuania, have them find out about the latest information concerning Lithuanian numismatics for us!

## SPONSORS NEEDED

We have been making plans to send *The Knight* on a regular basis to some choice Lithuanian institutions, agencies, etc. Examples: The Finance Ministry, the Mint, the national library. We feel that this is good PR for the L.N.A. and will serve as a friendly bridge between our members and collectors and the Lithuanian government there.

If you would like to sponsor a subscription to Lithuania, please let us know. The cost is \$15 per year. We will be printing a list of sponsors and where *The Knight* is being sent to in a future issue. Thank you for your support at this very important time.

Lithuania has resumed awarding its prestigious Orders and Decorations. The first ones, dubbed "Lithuania's highest honor" by the television commentaries, were given posthumously to those who were killed defending Lithuania freedom in the Soviet Massacre of January, 1991. Although the name of the decoration was not mentioned, we are assuming that this would be the Order of Vytautas the Great. No doubt we will see other decorations awarded in future months as the Lithuanian government becomes established.

President Landsbergis visited the Lithuanian Museum in Chicago in May, and as part of his tour was able to view our numismatic/military room, featuring displays of Lithuanian coins, banknotes, military orders, and decorations.

There have been numerous reports of the Baltic countries trying to secure the return of their gold reserves, which had been frozen in various western countries at the start of World War II. According to an article in the September 30 1991 issue of *World Coin News* (pg. 18), there are 6.5 tons of gold bullion stored London; three tons in the U.S., one ton in France; and interestingly, 1.6 tons plus some Latvian silver lati in Moscow. Regaining control of the gold reserves is a major step forward in the reestablishment of Baltic currencies.

The editor of *The Knight* is pleased to report that Krause Publications has recognized the independence of Lithuania, and will now return LITHUANIAS listing in the *Standard Catalog of World Coins* back to the "L" section. Below is the letter reprinted from *World Coin News*:

### Back under "L"

Back in 1981, Krause Publications made the decision to place the coin listings of the three Baltic countries: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the *Standard Catalog of World Coins* under the "USSR" listing. They formerly had been listed correctly under their own country names in the "E" and "L" sections.

Coins minted by the Republic of Lithuania were now listed as "Lithuanian S.S.R.," despite the objections of Baltic collectors and our Lithuanian Numismatic Association. Krause Publications later placed the Baltic countries under the "B" section for Baltic, but did not return these countries to their full independent coin-issuing status that the coinage of other countries enjoyed.

We are enclosing a copy of your editorial from the Oct. 13, 1981, issue of *World Coin News*, in which you state, "Should the day come that one or all of the Baltic States gains their independence, the staff of the SCWC will be more than eager to give them their separate listing." We are enclosing a copy of

that editorial.

Well, I have good news for you: Lithuania is now free and independent. And so is Latvia and Estonia. So I hope you will keep your word and now list these three countries under their respective country names in the *Standard Catalog of World Coins*. Your editorial was entitled, "Let's not ignore world realities."

Soon, these three Baltic countries will again be issuing their coins and currency. I have already received photographs of coin models and bank note designs. Our hobby specialty is alive and well.

Frank Passic  
Editor, *The Knight*  
Lithuanian Numismatic Association

**Editor's note:** The dramatic changes in relocating the listings of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania already are on the drawing board along with those for any other resurfacing entities.



# LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC DICTIONARY

13.



BY

Jonas K. Karys

English Translation by  
V.L.G. Matelis

Continued from last issue...

ECU. A French historical coin: a) A gold piece, initially struck in the second half of the 13th century, weighing about 4 gr., it was repeated with varied fluctuations, and remained the dominant coin of the country until the middle of the 17th century; b) a large silver coin, the French taler, introduced in 1641, starting with a weight of 25.984 gr., (about 0.910 silver content) and struck, with interruptions, until 100 years later.

EFIĞIJA/Effigy. (From the Latin, effigies, copy, picture) a) A carved, modeled, representation, picture, portrait; b) a figure in sculpture, painting, or on a coin (in the latter case--a person's head or bust); c) A figure of a person, condemned by a court, which is burned or hanged in public (especially during the 12th and 14th centuries) d) Very often, a stuffed figure of a hated person, hung or burned in turbulent demonstrations.

EFIMOK (Jefimok). The Russian designation of western Europe's taler, a great many of which reached Russia via trade from the 16th to the 19th centuries, and remained there. For instance, in 1655 alone, between 800,000 and a million countersigned with appropriate stamps termed "efimok s priznakom" were placed into circulation. The Russian designation arose from Joachimsthal, Bohemia, (which translated into Russian as "Jachimov," later into "jefimok" and finally "efimok"), which began to strike talers during the 16th century. The efimok was official standard in Russia at 64 kopecks. In the middle of the 17th century, a copper efimok valued at 50 kopecks appeared in Russia, and at the end of the 18th century, Czar Paul I struck his own silver efimok, and placed that same noun in the circle legend.

EFRAIMITAI/Efraimites. 1) Counterfeit Republican (Poland's) money, struck and fashioned on the order of Prussia's King Friedrich II during the period 1754-63. A rare, if not the only such action in history. The warlike Prussian leader, short of cash for his endless wars, ordered his mints in Stettlin, Breslov, Koenigsburg, not only to imitate Poland's coin, but to counterfeit them, striking them in the name of King August III (of Saxony) and with his dies. During the progress of the Seven Year War, the Prussians invaded Saxony, seized Leipzig and found there a large, active coin mint, and in it, among other items, all necessary means of producing Poland's coins. He turned over the entire project to an alert group of Berlin Jews--Veitel Efraim, Isaac and Itskus. These "partners", paying Friedrich an appropriate sum, struck Polish coins in massive amounts and by all possible means flooded Poland (and Lithuania) with them, and sent them elsewhere. It is estimated that between 85 and 400 million of these coins found their way into circulation. Coins, produced and circulated in this manner, whether gold, silver or billon, depreciated daily. The metal bars depreciated and fell to one half of the normal silver content, and even lower. For example, the gold 5-taler coin of King August III declined from 21 to 7 carats; the silver coins went from silver into dark billon. Together with the Polish coins, Friedrich and his Jewish co-workers falsified several of Saxony's coins. From the leading spirit of this monetary adventure, Efraim, all these affected coins were denominated "Efraimities." Their production stopped in 1763, with the signing of the peace treaty of Hubertsburg. 2) Several other "thin" silver coins of Prussia. For instance, 1/3 and 1/6 talers, struck at the same time, whether struck by Efraim or someone else, were also considered to be and were named efraimites.

EKATERINKA. A 100 ruble note of Czarist Russia, bearing the portrait of Empress Katherine II (1762-1796), was current in Russian-occupied Lithuania.

EKLEZINES MONETOS/Ecclesiastical coins. Are those coins which at one time were struck and placed into circulation by Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots, the Church, etc. In England, they were finally forbidden by King Henry VIII, in the middle of the 16th century.

ELEKTRONAS (Greet elektron, English electrum): A natural alloy of gold and silver, which the ancient Greeks used to produce coins. Electrum was first found in Lydia, and later in Africa and in Sicilia. In Asia minor, electrum contained about 27% silver, elsewhere, somewhat more. Electrum is manufactured with 50% gold and silver. In the era of the Merovingians, this electrum was widely used to strike coins.

ELEKTROTIPAS/Electrotype. A facsimile of a coin or medal, produced by the electrotype method. A wax impression

of the original is placed, hung in an electrolysis bath and kept there until a metal coating forms. This "shell" is then filled with the basic metal and the obverse and reverse are appropriately joined. Electrotypes are produced to replace rare numismatic items in collections.

EMBLEMA/Emblem. A) A picture with a device, allegorically reminding one of a certain moral truth. B) A visual sign of some idea, an object or a figure suggesting or inspiring another object (for instance, a sceptre for sovereignty, a crown for a king); C) Any image, contrived or composed, a motto, figure, symbol used in a coat of arms or separately, as a recognizable object; D) The most important part of a coat of arms.

EPIGRAFIKA/Epigraphics. A separate branch of history, specializing in epigraphs (inscriptions); indistinct scripts in historical, archeological or numismatic texts, etc. the translation or transliteration and explanation of scripts on monuments or findings.

EPISCOPUS. A bishop, in Greek, episkopos; a superintendent, a leader. The title of minter in ancient Greek Ephesus.

ERA. Centuries, periods, intervals, a time from which are reckoned years, as well as their numbering systems. An important historical event could start a system, a chronological space of time, encompassing some historical event (between two important historical events). The more important chronological eras: A) the old era, up to the birth of Christ (abbreviated B.C.) B) the new era, from the birth of Christ, or after Christ (Abbreviated A.D.); C) The Jewish era, from the creation of the world (3761 before Christ) D) The Olympiad era, starting with 776 before Christ; The Roman era, from the establishment of Roman (753 before Christ) as the basic era, but divided into eras of various Consuls; f) the Mohammedan or Muslim or hegira beginning with the flight of Mohammed from Mecca to Medina, 622 years after Christ; 6) The Buddhist era, beginning 544 years before Christ. Other than these, various nations or communities have their own systems of reckoning time, for example, the Japanese, from Jimu-Ten's start of reign (660 years before Christ), as well as the span of reign of modern emperors (various named eras); Seleucid era, from 312 years before Christ. Some Islamic coins bear striking dates (years) according to short-lived "eras:" 1) "Mauludi" from the approximate date of the birth of Mohammed (571 or 572); 2) "Ilahi" from 1556; 3) "Savat" or "Vikramadityas", starting 57 years before Christ; 4) "Ilkhani," from 1301 after Christ. On Siamese coins, we find three eras: the Buddhist (P.S.-Putta Sakaret), though it was not used in the 19th century; Chula (C.S.-Chula Sakarat) from 638 after Christ; Bangkok (R.S.-Ratanakosin Sakarat) from 1782. Coins of India are dated in several eras (for example, Samavat, starting 57 years before Christ; Saka, starting 78 years after Christ and others). Certain coins of the Chinese Empire have their striking dates systematized into cycles of 60 years; coins of the Republic bear dates starting with 1912 (Republican era). e) The French have recorded some of their 1792-1806 coins according to a "revolutionary calendar", with years I to XV, beginning not with January 1, but September 22 (I-III, V-VII years), and September 23rd (IV, VII-XI, XIII-XV years) and September 24 (XII year).

ERELIS/Eagle. (German, Adler, Russian oriol, Lithuanian, Erelis). A stout, strong, predatory member of the hawk family, falcon division, a bird aquila penties. There are several known varieties of the eagles, however, but the so-called noblest eagle stands foremost. In ancient Egypt and early Asia, the people listed him among divine symbols; to the Greeks and the Romans, he was the noblest and strongest, and in addition, he was the bird of Zeus and Jupiter. Early, several hundreds of years before Christ, they began to picture him on Greek and Roman coins. Later, the eagle reached the heights of world power. After becoming the eagle of Roman legions, he became very popular in Rome. From there, he was later adopted by the Germans; the eagle's portrait (how much he resembled the living model is unimportant!) spread widely throughout Europe and on its coins. Transferring the eagle into a national coat of arms, the ancient Assyrians and Medes in 598 pictured him as a fantastic bird with TWO HEADS (one of them turned to the right, the other to the left). The joint Roman Empire (the east and west--Byzantium) likewise adopted it as a national symbol with two heads. And when the Czar of Moscow, John III, wed the daughter of the last Byzantine Emperor, Sofia in 1472, he claimed to be the legal heir of the Byzantine throne, and thus received its coat of arms--the two headed eagle. That same eagle remained the state emblem of Russia's Czars until the Bolshevik revolution of 1917.

ERMITAZAS/Hermitage. The national Art and Cultural History Museum in Leningrad (earlier, Petrograd), known better by the simplified title, National Hermitage. Peter the Great established a Chamber of Art in that town and stored in it, among other items, many historical coins and medals. Those numismatic collections were first shown to the public in 1719. In 1765, the first building of the Hermitage were built, in which there was created a museum of the Czar's wealth. Every ten years, it was enlarged with new salons, and in the middle of the 19th century it was rebuilt and properly accommodated to the needs of a massive museum. In it were placed the numismatic collections of Peter himself. Today, several hundred thousands of this type of numismatics are contained in the Hermitage's coin collections.

ESCUADAS/Escudo (From the Spanish). 1. Gold and silver medals of Spain from the 17th to the 19th centuries; 2) The Portuguese monetary unit, consistin of 100 centavos, a silver, but later bronze coin. 3) The monetary unit of Chili, of 100 centisimi (beginning with 1960).

Continued next issue.....



# LETTERS

Dear Editor: I am completing a work on legal history in 16th and 17th century Poland and I have come across a most beguiling reference to a Lithuanian coin from about 1543. The coin is termed a "lindish" by the author of a Hebrew text. Apparently, a lessee had to bribe local officials with 400 "lindish" (perhaps "lindish") in order for them to agree to his purchase of a lease. Have you any idea of what currency is being referred to and what its value might have been? I have glanced through Jonas Karys' work on ancient Lithuanian currencies but have not found any reference to such a coin. I do not, however, read Lithuanian. I have tried to check the English translation of Karys' work but the only copy in New York libraries, that of the American Numismatic Society, seems to have been "misplaced." Is the work still available?

--Edward Fram,  
Columbia University

EDITOR'S REPOSE: The book **Ancient Lithuanian Currencies** by Jonas K. Karys was translated into English and published by our LNA in serial form in the early 1980s. It is available at the ANA library in Colorado Springs, CO, and the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago on a library research basis.

Regarding your question, our official LNA translator, Aleksandras Radzius is very knowledgeable about early Lithuanian numismatics, and offers this reply:

"Frank Passic forwarded your letter to me. I am the current Lithuanian-to-English translator of the Lithuanian Numismatic Association. By profession I am a biological researcher working with nicotine addiction. As a hobby, I do very serious research in Lithuanian numismatics, sphragistics, vexicology, and heraldry.

Seeing "lindis" used in context in your discourse, I believe that lindis may indeed be derived from "listi, lenda, lindo," meaning: "To be importunate, to troublesomely or persistently press or urge, to elbow your way in," and could have had a medieval meaning such as "fee, payment or commission in advance," with the coin of payment being understood.

The scenario I gather is as follows: Simon purchases a lease for a three year term. The leases are generally given to someone else at the end of the term. Before Simon's lease has expired, Reuben obtains a second lease, for which Reuben paid the noble a sum of money to influence the council to award him (Reuben) the lease. However, before the council will release the lease to Reuben, they demand "...until you give us, each one of us, 400 lindis, because this is the custom..."

Actually, it appears to me that the derivation and construction of "lindis" is similar to that of "kysis," meaning "a bribe." And this is probably why "lindis" appears to be a transliteration from the vernacular into Hebrew and does not follow the general grammatical rules of the Hebrew language (i.e. number, gender).

However, whether lindis meant "a bribe" or "a fee," using logic we can make some reasonable deductions. If Reuben paid the noble 4,800 groschen, it seems reason-

able that the total amount he would pay the judge and each of the councilmen would not exceed by much, if any, the payment he made to the noble. Thus, 4,800 divided by 400 equals 12, suggesting that there were about 12 councilmen and a judge and further suggesting that the understood coins of payment of the lindis were groschen.

As a collaborative point from history, the fact that Reuben and Simon had to deal with a council and not just the nobleman alone, indicates that they are dealing with a village of some size. If they were dealing with a metropolitan area, a city which had self-rule and a Magdeburg Charter, they would be dealing only with a major and the councilmen. If they were dealing with a rural village, they would be dealing only with a noble. Thus, the geographic location where the lease in question is located is a large village/small city which still had not acquired self-government and its own Magdeburg Charter. One such large Lithuanian village is Kedainiai. It was the property of the Kiskiai Lithuanian noble family who were later married into by the Radvila Lithuanian noble family. Kedainiai did acquire self-rule and its own Magdeburg Charter in 1590, and the charter was reconfirmed in 1627. Another such village was Birzai, acquiring its Magdeburg Charter in 1589, having previously belonged to the Radvila family."

--ALEKSANDRAS RADZIUS

Translator, Lithuanian Numismatic Association.

## FOR SALE/WANTED

**FOR SALE:** Lithuanian Hall (Waukegan, ILL) aluminum token set: 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, \$1. AU. \$10. Frank Passic, 900 S. Eaton St., Albion, MI 49224.

**FOR SALE:** Capital Plastic coin holders for Lithuania's 1925, 1936, 1938 14-coin circulation set. \$25. Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Rd., Chicago, IL 60629.

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